

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method forms self-sustaining particles that comprise a hydrophobic (oleophilic) phase in particulate form, with no need for a rigid shell to encapsulate the phase, and usually with no shell present. The oleophilic phase contains a gelation agent, and preferably an organogelation agent. The particles may be stored alone or in a minor amount (e.g., less than 40% by volume) of water to assist their stability and act as a barrier against their coalescence. These water-separated compositions are not necessarily dispersions or suspensions, but may be merely particles in an aqueous storage environment. The particles have prolonged stability and can be readily, simply, and inexpensively formed. A simple method of manufacture comprises forming a solution of the ingredients (e.g., at least the oleophilic material and gelation agent) at a temperature above their gelation temperature, forming droplets or molten, or liquid or flowable particles of the solutions, and cooling the droplets to form the particulates. Cooling may be effected by exposure to ambient conditions (e.g., room temperature) when the ingredients are properly selected, or an actual cooling environment may be needed.